showed clearly that it was a case of misconception of the rules and no fraud. The Manager was warned, and the excess amount drawn was recovered from the next grant bill.

(d) and (e) The case deserved nothing more or less than the action taken by the department.

(f) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know how he came to the conclusion that it was a case of misconception of the rules and no fraud?

Mr. C. Matthai.—I shall explain it further. The Manager sends grant bills and a separate attendance report of the pupils. When this matter came before me, I called for the strength of each class, and I found the Manager was giving correct figures. Now, the strength given in the Pupils' Attendance Report and that given in the bill were different. In the Pupils' Attendance Report he has given the correct figures, but in the grant bill he has put in a different figure which should be the minimum strength of a class for claiming full grant. If he has given the attendance as is given in the Pupils' Attendance Report, he could claim only half grant. When I asked him to explain this difference, and why he was claiming full grant, he said that, as long as he was able to show the full income that would be derived by the minimum strength of the pupils, he thought he was within his rights in claiming full grant, and then he said, as for the actual strength of the class, he had been sending me the correct statements. So it could not be taken as an intentional hiding of facts. We calculate the total fee collection of the whole class, and unless the strength came to the minimum, I would give only half grant. But in this case, there were one or two pupils less. His explanation was that, as long as he compensated the Government, the Government would not be a loser, and he would not be taken to have infringed the rules. Further, in the statements he was giving the correct figures.

Religious instruction in schools.

99. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state what is the final order passed by the Government on the point of imparting religious instruction in schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Final orders have not been passed.

Girls' Sports at Trichur.

100. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Ladies' Badminton and Girls' Sports were held on the grounds of the Government Maternity Hospital, Trichur, during the first week of January 1926; if no informa-

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tion, will the Government call for a report from the authority concerned ;

(b) is the Government aware that on this occasion young girls were running about with eggs and spoons in their mouths, pairs were playing on three legs, a few were competing in hurriedly putting on the dress, while the rest were playing with bats and ball in the presence of a large number of males, thereby making the Hospital a noisy resort for amusement and pleasure for all kinds of people ;

(c) had the Government or any authority accorded sanction for these undesirable enjoyments in the premises of the Hospital ;

(d) was not this enjoyment outrageous to the feelings of the patients in the throes of labour ;

(e) what is the age of the eldest of all the damsels who took part in the function ;

(f) who are the officers responsible for the organisation of the function ; if it be not to the approval of the Government, will the Government be pleased to take some disciplinary action in the matter ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes.

(b) No eggs were used. The children ran with spoons in their hands and with limes in the spoons. There was no 'playing on three legs', but there was a three-legged race, for the girls. There was also a dressing race, for which different costumes were heaped up in a place, and the children were asked to put them on correctly and neatly over their usual dress. This was arranged in a private place. There was also a Badminton Tournament. It was purely a ladies' function. The gathering consisted of respectable ladies and gentlemen. The latter were invited only on the final day. There were no noisy amusements. Police arrangements were also made to prevent a crowd.

(c) The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer granted permission to the Assistant Surgeon to use the Hospital grounds on the occasion. No undesirable enjoyments were tolerated.

(d) There were no patients 'in the throes of labour', nor were there any bad cases during these days. The feelings of none of the patients were outraged. On the other hand, it was a source of enjoyment to those who could move about and witness the function.

(e) Not known.

(f) The function was organised by a Committee consisting of eight members, viz., Miss Helen Cruickshank, Headmistress, V.G. School, Trichur, (2) Miss G.M. D'Souza, Assistant Surgeon, Maternity Hospital, Trichur, (3) Srimati V. K. Droupadi

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Amma, Headmistress, Girls' High School, Irinjalakkuda, (4) Miss Elizabeth George, Inspectress of Girls' Schools, (5) Srimati A. Bhanumati Amma, (6) Mrs. P. Narayana Menon, (7) Mrs. A. Sankara Puduval and (8) Mrs. John.

The games and sports conducted were intended for the physical improvement of the girls which is a highly desirable thing. No disciplinary action in the matter is considered necessary.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is it right to allow Hospitals to be used as sporting grounds?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—If the Hospital has a ground, I think there is no objection to use the Hospital grounds for sporting purposes.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—When was this permission given by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer to hold these sports in the Trichur Maternity Hospital?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—If the Government wants the exact date, I am not in a position to give it now. When I visited the Maternity Hospital, I gave verbal permission.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The answer to question (b) is that no eggs were used. Is not that game called "the egg and spoon race"? The objection seems to have been taken for the word "eggs". That game is known as "the egg and spoon race".

President.—Those who could not use eggs used the limes.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—As a matter of fact, were not eggs used?

Mr. C. Matthai.—I suppose in England it is so. The fun is that, when they run, the egg falls and breaks.

President.—By substituting lime, you cannot have that fun.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Were not many uninvited persons present on this occasion?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Some 3,000 or 4,000 were present.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I was invited, but I did not attend that function.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It is a labour Hospital. It is intended for the poor. It is the Government that ought to respect their feelings. Sports are conducted in the Hospital for the benefit and pleasure of the patients. This is obtainable in all Hospitals. But nowhere have I known where the Hospital compound is made a sporting ground for the enjoyment of the public. I have never heard of these things.

President.—I am not aware of all these things.

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Mr. C. Matthai.—I have given the names of the organisers of this. This function was conducted by a committee of which Miss D'Souza is the Secretary.

President.—What I want to explain is this. Miss. Helen Cruickshank wanted the Residency grounds for this sporting purpose. I said that the Residency grounds were Palace grounds, and I did not want to set a precedent by giving it for sporting purposes. If I had given that ground, I would have avoided all these. Unfortunately, I am mainly responsible for all these things.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We want only an assurance from the Government that such things would not take place in future, in the Hospital grounds.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There were no instances of this kind before.

President.—Are you aware that, within your knowledge, Hospital grounds are used for such purposes?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Let me explain further. There is a Badminton club maintained in our Hospital. Lady doctors, nurses and female compounders generally do take part in this.

President.—That is an ordinary game. But in this case it is not so.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is also a demonstration where all people are invited sometimes to be present, and along with invited persons a large number of uninvited persons would also be present. When I gave the permission to conduct sports in the Trichur Maternity Hospital, I did not anticipate that 3,000 or 4,000 people would come to witness the sports.

President.—As far as possible, you must avoid holding such sport competitions in Hospitals.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—According to my information, the Hospital premises are used for general sports in British Malabar and other places.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In the Maternity Hospital at Madras, as far as I know, strangers are not allowed to visit the place.

The management of Sirkar Malayalam Schools by local bodies.

101. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that they contemplate a scheme to give the management of all Sirkar Malayalam Schools to local bodies such as the Panchayats, Municipalities, etc.?

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